

**REMARKS**

Claims 23-45 and 50-60 are currently pending. The Examiner contends that the application contains three patentably distinct species:

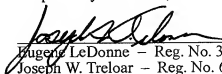
- Species I: Claims 23-40 and 50-54 describe the invention which is directed to evaluating the image quality which includes recording plurality of image samples, improving the quality of these image samples, and determining characteristic numbers that are characteristic of deformation of wavefront deformation caused by the imaging system;
- Species II: Claims 41-45 and 55 describe the invention which is directed to evaluating the image quality with respect to amplitude distribution and phase front distribution which further requires exchanging the known sample for a sample which is to be examined and whose optical characteristics are still unknown; and
- Species III: Claims 56-60 describe the invention which is directed to evaluating image quality with respect to image sample characteristics, which further includes separating images of the measured image stack from corresponding images of the simulated image stack to obtain images of the measured image stack that are freed from the characteristics of the imaging system.

Restriction Requirement (07/07/09), P. 3.

Applicants provisionally elects to proceed with Species I, corresponding to Claims 23-40 and 50-54.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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